The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

October 2006 Issue No. 427

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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Brush Up Those Spotter Skills with Basic & Advanced Training

Article by Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Emergency Coordinator, Central Carolina SKYWARN

Need Basic or Advanced Spotter Training? Here's your opportunity! CISCO Systems Amateur Radio Club, Central Carolina SKYWARN, and the National Weather Service are teaming up to offer a day of Severe Weather Training on Saturday, November 4 at CISCO. The location is the Creekside Conference Center, 7025-5 Kit Creek Road, Research Triangle Park.

From 9:30–11:30 am, Basic Spotter Training will be offered. CCS Emergency Coordinator Virginia Enzor NC4VA will start with a brief PowerPoint presentation on CCS operations. Following her will be Brandon Dunstan, Meteorologist Intern of the Raleigh NWS, presenting Basic Spotter Training. Brandon will address how and why buildings fall in high winds and thunderstorm severity. Attendees will learn to recognize cloud elements of developing thunderstorms and be able to gauge storm motion, intensity, and severity based on storm

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Going Once...Going Twice...Go to the RARS Auction!

Announcement by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, RARS Vice-President

The October RARS meeting will feature the annual RARS auction. We will gather in our usual meeting area (downstairs dining hall). Refreshments and item sign-ins start at 6:30pm. The meeting will start at 7:00pm (please note the early start time), with the auction following soon thereafter. This event is limited to amateur radio and computer items. All transactions are between the seller and the buyer. Everyone is welcome – members or non-members – so bring a friend or two! This is always an interesting and fun-filled activity.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are $18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are $9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (RARS.org).

The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:
Courtney Enzor
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Want to be a Published Author?

Everyone has their favorite aspects of amateur radio. From contests to antenna building, there's something for everyone in this great hobby. Why not share your interests, expertise, and experience with RARS in the *Exciter?* We welcome member and non-member/affiliate submissions.

Both technical and non-technical articles are needed for the Exciter. You could write up a quick column on QSL cards or a longer how-to piece on setting up a new shack. And don't feel pressured to write a tome - articles of all sizes are appreciated!

To submit an article, simply email your piece to the Editor at courtney_enzor@yahoo.com. Please also feel free to attach pictures to accompany your article. It is helpful if you add captions and identify the people in photographs.

We look forward to learning from each other and broadening our club's knowledge base! So break out those pens, pencils, and keyboards and get writing!

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

VE Testing

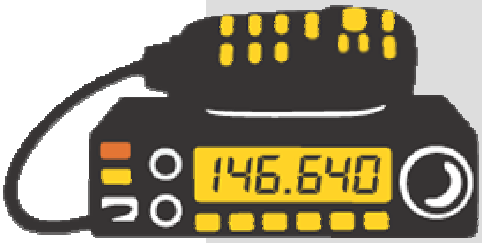
The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



President's Corner

Article by Dick Bitner W8HYD, RARS President

I guess all of us are glad the summer is past, and we are moving into the cooler parts of the year. I don't know about you, but I fully enjoy temperatures in the mid-seventies and high sixties. I brings out my peak energy cycle, and I'm quick to recharge.

Quick recharging is going to be a requirement this month. For starters, the RARS auction takes front and center position. Bring your ham-related items and lots of spending cash. This year, we have a full complement of auctioneers, great snacks, and an early start. I know I will see you there.

Quick to follow are a couple of big events. After some delay, the Red Cross has once again come to us for operators to man the first aid dispatch center at the fair. Chuck K4HF is handling the sign ups; since we will not be using ham gear, a license will not be required. This makes an ideal "team" effort for spouses and significant others, licensed or not. Contact Chuck about the requirements and to sign up. Past experience has shown this to be a great way to enjoy a day at the fair – before or after your shift, of course – and to serve the community.

There are also other public service requirements for the month. Dick KD4ISC can fill you in with the particulars, but help is always needed. We are listed as a public service club with the ARRL, and it helps us to participate.

The other "Big Event" is the JOTA activity scheduled for October 21, 2006. This is an international event in scouting. We have applied for, and received, the special call sign W4S for this event. Chris Thomson KI4MMV is the focal point. There will be HF and VHF stations set up and operational for the day. Radio merit badge classes will also be offered. Plan on coming out and spending some time with the scouts, scout leaders, and other hams as we use this opportunity to expose some great young folks to ham radio and related public service. The event will be held at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 3008 Old Raleigh Road, Apex, NC. Times are from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Bring your licenses, QSL cards, and a positive attitude for some real fun. Contact Chris at christhomson1983@yahoo.com.

Don't forget the RARS HF Challenge. Complete rules and other vital info can be found via the link on the RARS website. There is still time to make a real showing. Give it a try.

That's all for this month. Oh, yes, Happy Halloween and have a great start to the holiday season.

Visit the RARS website for up-to-the-minute announcements, current information, and special features at www.rars.org.

Welcome New RARS Members!

Frances Burkhart	No License
Richard Burkhart	KI4QML
David Hinson	KI4PUT
Jack Scheinuk	W5WSF
Dave White	K4LKN

Hamfest Calendar

October 1	West Friendship, MD
October 7	Brownstown, PA
October 14	Augusta, GA
October 21	Oak Ridge, TN
October 29	Westminster, MD
November 19	JARSFEST @ Benson, NC

Dates courtesy of *SERA Repeater Journal*.

October Birthdays

Jay	KM4EP	10/2
Dave	K4SAN	10/2
Rod	AB4RG	10/5
Kathleen	KA2SBC	10/6
Rick	KA3PSK	10/9
Mike	K4PSP	10/9
Chris	KI4MMV	10/10
Frank	KY4W	10/11
Richard	KB4TKQ	10/15
Tim	W4NOT	10/17
Skip	N6LUZ	10/18
Ken	N4VQO	10/19
Joey	KE4DRJ	10/21
Gary	KN4AQ	10/22
Ric	KI4PVC	10/25
Mike	W0MDS	10/26
Cecil	KG4OQC	10/26
Vince	WA2SRZ	10/28
Ken	KD4JMK	10/29

August 2006 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net
Check-ins: 433
Traffic: 44/38
Minutes: 737
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets
Check-ins: 62
Minutes: 446
Sessions: 8

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structure. Brandon's instruction will be laced with some video vignettes from his weather days in the Midwest, so expect some interesting footage! Chief Meteorologist Greg Fishel of WRAL TV will also be on hand to make some remarks.

From 1–3 pm, Raleigh NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX will provide Advanced Spotter Training. Advanced elements of severe weather forecasting and detection will be covered, providing insight into NWS severe weather outlooks and discussions.

Attendees will receive a Certificate of Training from the NWS by mail.

Training is open to those as young as 12 years old. Youth ages 12–18 must be accompanied by a parent per CISCO security.

The NWS recommends this training to anyone desiring to become a SKYWARN Spotter and to anyone in need of refresher training. Spotters should take refresher training at least once every three years.

Folks wishing to attend must pre-register by emailing Virginia Enzor at nc4va@nc.rr.com no later than Wednesday, November 1, 2006.

Directions: From I-40, exit on Davis Drive and head south towards Cary. Travel about 3.5 miles to Kit Creek Road. There will be a stoplight at the intersection; CISCO's sign is visible at the intersection. Turn right onto Kit Creek. Continue to the 3rd parking lot entrance on the left, and then turn left into the drive. Building 5 will be 2nd building on the right. Enter any of the 3 parking lot entrances, and then follow the signs to building 5.

Amateur Radio Nets

The RARS Technical & Trader's net is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

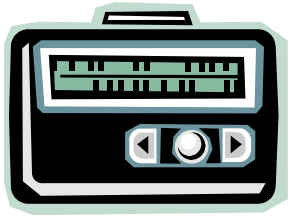
October 10 — "Instability Indices" with NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

Check us out at www.ccskywarn.net.

The VOIP Hurricane net is held Saturdays @ 7 pm on the 440 Carolina linking system. To view the list of linked repeaters, go to www.carolina440.net/repeaters_on_link.htm.

The NC VOIP for North Carolina net is also held on the 440 Carolina linking system on Sundays @ 7 pm.

The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.



Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) net** on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes 11 linked repeaters, spanning piedmont and eastern North Carolina. The net will also be connected to the Reflector 921 Channel 1 so other IRLP links can join in on the net.

These are the present frequencies and locations that you can use to access the net:

441.725+ (tone of 100.) Raleigh "Backbone Hub" repeater

442.075+ (tone of 88.5) Leland
443.075+ (tone of 100.) Clinton
444.150+ (tone of 100.) Clayton
444.325+ (tone of 100.) Holly Springs
444.375+ (tone of 100.) Henderson
444.550+ (tone of 100.) Coats
444.775+ (tone of 100.) Cary
444.775+ (tone of 88.5) Castle Hayne
444.875+ (tone of 100.) Wendell
444.925+ (tone of 100.) Durham

CAROLINA 440 RAGCHEW

Board Meeting - August 2006

Minutes of the RARS Board of Meeting for August 2006

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on August 15, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board –Dick Bitner W8HYD, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL, Steve Worley KB4HDQ, Gary Pearce KN4AQ and Virginia Enzor NC4VA. Others – Charlie Swindell WB4DCM.

President Dick Bitner W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

The minutes from the special July Board meeting were approved as presented.

Vice President's report – Selene KG4RMT advised the September meeting program will be the second part of Gary's (KN4AQ) Dayton Hamfest presentation. The October meeting will be the annual auction. Club elections will be held in November and December will be the holiday party.

Webmaster – Steve KB4HDQ reported that at least two members have complained about repeated postings of for sale items on the club's email list. The discussion that followed resulted in the general conclusion that items for sale could be posted but that repetitive use of the list for the same item(s) will be discouraged.

Education – Virginia NC4VA advised she has the ARRL 'Hello' campaign literature available. Cisco has agreed to the use of their facility in RTP for future ham radio classes. The next class will take place in the fall. A new license manual is now available.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM reported that options for booths and meeting rooms are being investigated for the new Expo building location.

Chuck K4HF advised that RARS lifetime member Audrey Brown WB4ZSM passed away recently in New Jersey.

Unfinished Business

The group discussed the possible need to change the bylaws to include email as a means of notifying members about club activity. It was decided that no changes were needed at this time.

Steve KB4HDQ presented information on Astronomy Days and proposed that RARS participate. There were no objections to the club's participation. Steve will gather additional information for the event.

A nominating committee comprised of Chuck K4HF, Gary KN4AQ and Hank K4HM was appointed to provide candidates for the elections in November.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes taken by Steve Worley KB4HDQ and transcribed for submission by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

RARS Meeting - September 2006

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for September 2006

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on September 5, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

David Hinson KI4PUT was welcomed as a guest to the meeting.

Joe Squashic W4TTO presented Philip Jones KG4IVD with a certificate of completion of the NTS traffic training program offered by RARS.

Charlie Swindell WB4DCM announced that the Piedmont chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QWCA) would hold its quarterly meeting on Saturday. The group will meet at 11:30 at the Golden Corral in Durham.

Dick Orander KD4ISC made the following public service announcements:

- Radio operators are still needed for the MS150 bike event that will be held on September 9 and 10 in New Bern. See Dick after the meeting or email Bruce Arnold at Brucen8uty@gmail.com to volunteer.
- There are two Light the Night walks that will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Radio operators are needed on the evenings of September 9 in Raleigh and September 14 in RTP to provide communications support for this event. Contact Bill Cole KG4CXY via kg4cxy@hampublicservice.org to volunteer.
- The American Diabetes Walk will be held on Saturday, September 30 in RTP. Bill KG4CXY will be coordinating radio operators for that event as well.
- The Autism Ribbon Run will be held in downtown Raleigh on Saturday morning, October 14. A coordinator and 15 to 20 radio operators are needed for this event. This is a fun and easy event. A good one for beginners. Sign up by September 25 to guarantee your correct T-shirt size. Contact Dick KD4ISC after the meeting or at kd4isc@arrl.net for more information.

The State Fair will take place from October 13th through 22nd. Check the club website (RARS.org) and 8pm net for details on participating.

Dick W8HYD announced that the special callsign W4S has been approved for use with the upcoming Jamboree On The Air. Chris Thomson KI4MMV and Rod Thomson KI4LSN announced that they will be organizing radio operators to help with this year's JOTA activities. The plan is to have amateur operators available on Saturday, October 21 to assist with the Jamboree and to provide training for scouts interested in earning their radio merit badge. A location has not yet been determined. Anyone interested in helping should contact Chris or Rod.

Bob Conder K4RLC provided an update of progress being made in the Gulf Coast area affected by last year's hurricane Katrina.

Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ requested the club allow him to provide Morse code training on the local repeater. Dick W8HYD advised he would bring the request before the Board of Directors for consideration.

Door prizes were won by Rod Thomson KI4LSN and Frank Scaraglino KA2FWC.

Greg Seamster KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There are 199 RARS members.

Selene Montgomery KG4RMT announced there were commemorative 50th anniversary QSL cards for the Shelby Hamfest available at the back table.

The program was a video tour of this year's Dayton Hamvention provided by Gary Pearce KN4AQ.

Attendance - 48

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

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Logo from www.rars.org

What is JOTA? See page 4 for details on how RARS is participating in this international event!